

## Crafts shared by Bailey Jo Simpson at Seguin Public Library in Seguin, Texas



### Polar Bear Craft:

I searched all over Pinterest, and couldn't find anything that I just really loved. But typically, I can look at several different ideas that I'm not crazy about and come up with my own. This was a "cute" craft, as opposed to a process craft. I try to do these sparingly because I think the process is important. But, even when they're "cute" crafts, I try to give them options for colors or something sensory--In this case, cotton balls/googly eyes/pompoms.

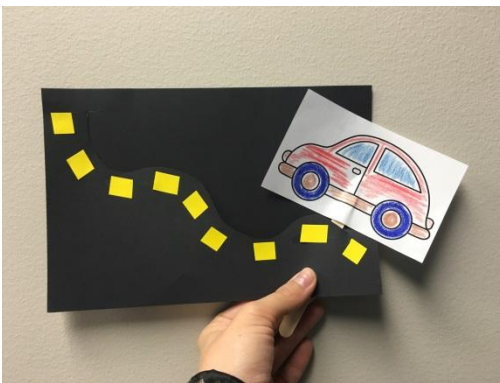
### Materials:

- Big circle paper punch
- Small circle paper punch
- White construction paper
- Small black pompoms
- Googly eyes
- Pink crayons (I picked out every version of pink we had and scattered them on the craft tables, so they could still choose)
- Popsicle stick
- Glue sticks

### Why it's fun:

They loved this one because it was **fun to play with the cotton balls** and because they got a **puppet** they could pretend with.

One of the books I read that day was **Polar Bear's Underwear**, so I also printed out the PDF from the publisher and helped them make the polar bear mask. The link is long, but will automatically send you to the PDF download:  
[https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=0ahUKewj65t\\_D1NjRAhVNzGMKHcrAA5AQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.chroniclebooks.com%2Flanding-pages%2Fpdfs%2FPBU\\_ActivityKit.pdf&usg=AFQjCNErwnXbV9ZxFPjmPocOhP3Sm5dlig&bvm=bv.144686652,d.amc&cad=rja](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=0ahUKewj65t_D1NjRAhVNzGMKHcrAA5AQFggaMAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.chroniclebooks.com%2Flanding-pages%2Fpdfs%2FPBU_ActivityKit.pdf&usg=AFQjCNErwnXbV9ZxFPjmPocOhP3Sm5dlig&bvm=bv.144686652,d.amc&cad=rja)



### Car Craft:

#### Car:

This car craft was a huge hit! **The image on the left was my idea.** I didn't want to give them a plain coloring sheet, but I didn't want to get too complicated either. The black paper is half a page of construction paper, and I gave a stack to our library clerks and had them cut a squiggly line diagonally from one corner to the other. I pulled a car coloring page from the internet and just printed several to a page, so that the cars were small enough.

Note: Several of the kids did not understand the yellow lines, and glued them all over their paper. Hahaha. But until they're 16, why worry about it?



### Gas Pump:

This idea came from Pinterest, except theirs was on a much larger scale, and I think it might have been for a birthday party. I just used a small rectangular box we had in the Youth Service's workroom. Why is there a big hole in the front of it, you ask? Because that's where the calculator goes! If possible, don't cut a hole and **just use mounting tape to stick a calculator on the front.** Personally, I had borrowed a calculator from the front desk, so I didn't want there to be any residue left on it. It was a bit of challenge trying to get it to stay in place enough to let the kids play with it, but once I did, it went over really well.

### How it works:

The kids color the car and tape or glue a popsicle stick to the back, then glue the yellow stripes along the road (in theory). They "drive" the car along the road and then come to the pump to get gas.

I made my pump at the last minute, so I didn't have time to figure out how to attach a nozzle and hose. But it was still a huge hit! The kids came up after **they finished their car and punched in numbers on the calculator (to tell me**

**how much gas they needed).** I then took their car and **just held it behind the pump for a couple of seconds and said "Okay! You're ready to go!"** They absolutely loved it!

### Materials:

#### Car:

- Black construction paper
- Yellow construction paper
- Car coloring page (print 4-6 per page)
- Crayons
- Popsicle sticks
- Gluesticks and tape

#### Pump:

- Rectangular Box
- Construction paper or cardstock
- Exacto knife
- Sharpie
- Tape

### Why it's fun:

It's such an **interactive** craft/activity! And they love **pretending to do things that they see adults doing!**

### Alien Spaceship Craft:



This is an idea that I adapted from Pinterest. I do that a lot! Haha. I think they used plain white paper plates and maybe glued the aliens to the plate (?).

I liked using colorful paper plates because they got to choose what color they wanted their spaceship to be. **I also drew 4 different aliens myself and just made copies**, so they could choose their alien too! If I can find my template, I'd be happy to let others use it.

### Materials:

- Colorful mini paper plates
- Alien coloring pages (multiple printed on 1 page)
- Bright construction paper (cut into strips and then into small pieces)
- Crayons
- Popsicle sticks
- Gluesticks/Tape

Note: You could also let them use pompoms and stickers or whatever you have available to decorate their spaceships.

### How to:

- Have volunteers/clerks cut out a half moon shape from the paper plate. Just make sure they don't cut it OFF, because you'll need to fold the paper plate over and the half moon shape will be the "interior" of the spaceship.
- Tape or glue the bottom of the paper plate

### Why it's fun:

This one leaves lots of room for **creativity** and allows them to have their own **unique little alien**. And they LOVED "flying" their spaceship around!

### More great crafts:

### Create your own piece of art:

Let them **draw whatever they want** on half a page of white drawing paper or construction paper. I used drawing paper so that they could use markers and colored pencils in addition to our usual crayons. Use **black construction paper to "frame" it**. Then, stick a **magnet** on the back so they can hang it on the fridge. This craft was my idea, and I did it to go

along with **The Dot and Ish by Peter H. Reynolds**. The idea is basically that expressing yourself is valuable. But the kids just have fun making something that was all their idea!

Note: In The Dot, the teacher has the little girl sign her artwork. I didn't tell my storytime kids sign theirs, but it was obvious that they were listening because several of them did! We also happen to have metal beams in the library, so they loved finishing their work and seeing how it would look hung up.

### **Germs:**

All of this crazy Central Texas weather (AND ALLERGENS) has sent a lot of people to the doctor recently. So, a couple of weeks ago, we did a storytime about germs/being sick.

I used **Sick Simon, Bear Feels Sick, and How Do Dinosaurs Get Well Soon?**

For our germ crafts, I simply had one of our volunteers cut out **squiggly blobs** (all about the same size) from bright colored construction paper. We used little **strips of paper, foam stickers**, and **googly eyes** to decorate them. It was simple, but they got a huge kick out of trying to "get" me with their icky germs, and ran to our Youth Services Librarian saying "Look! I made a germ!"